

In the Claims:

Please add the following new claims:

21. (New) A communications security system to prevent transfer of selected communication transactions from an untrustworthy network to a trustworthy network, comprising:

a server, connected to the untrustworthy network, that maintains a plurality of protection rules, each of which, when applied to a communication transaction, identifies that communication transaction to be a respective one of the selected communication transactions; and

a portal, connected between the untrustworthy network and the trusted network, that:

cooperates with the server to transfer the database of protection rules from said server to the portal via said untrustworthy network;

receives a communication transaction from the untrustworthy network for transfer to the trustworthy network;

applies each of the protection rules to the received communication transaction; and

selectively transfers to the server at least a portion of the received communication transaction via the untrustworthy network if a protection rule identifies the received communication transaction to be a respective one of the selected communication transactions.

22. (New) A portal for use in a communications security system to selectively transfer a communication transaction in accordance with a protection rule maintained by a server, the portal:

transferring the protection rule from said server;

receiving the communication transaction;

applying the protection rule to the received communication transaction;

preventing the transfer of the received communication transaction if required by the protection rule; and

selectively transferring to the server at least a portion of the received communication transaction even if the protection rule allows transfer of the received communication transaction.

23. (New) A communications security method wherein a portal selectively transfers a communication transaction in accordance with a first protection rule maintained by a server, comprising:

transferring the first protection rule from said server to the portal;

receiving at the portal the communication transaction;

applying at the portal the first protection rule to the communication transaction;

preventing at the portal the transfer of the communication transaction if required by the first protection rule;

selectively transferring from the portal to the server at least a portion of the communication transaction even if the first protection rule allows transfer of the communication transaction; and

selectively creating at the server a second protection rule in response to said portion of the communication transaction.